

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-17 are pending in this application. Claims 4-9 are withdrawn from further consideration. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate allowable subject matter of claim 2, and claim 2 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Furthermore, claim 3 is amended for clarification purposes only. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

It is gratefully appreciated that the Office Action indicates that claims 2, 3 and 17 contain allowable subject matter.

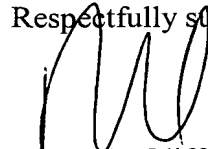
The Office Action rejects claims 1, 10, 11 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Gill (U.S. Patent No. 6,381,094); and claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gill.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Thus, claims 1, 3 and 10-17 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §102(e) and §103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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